

Gelber, L.E., Seltzer, L.H., Bouzoukis, J.K., Pollart, S.M., Chapman, M.D., and Platts-Mills, T.A.E., "Sensitization and Exposure to Indoor Allergens as Risk Factors for Asthma Among Patients Presenting to Hospital," American Review of Respiratory Disease 147(3): 573-578, 1993.

The authors of this study investigated the potential role of indoor allergens in adult patients with acute asthma. A case-control study of 114 patients and 114 controls presenting to an emergency room (for asthma and conditions other than breathlessness, respectively) was conducted. The authors reported that "thirty-eight percent of the asthmatics, but only 8% of the control subjects, were allergic to one of the three indoor allergens, and had high levels of the relevant allergen in their houses (odds ratio, 7.4; confidence interval, 3.3 to 16.5)." The authors concluded that "the results suggest that the risk for asthma related to sensitization to indoor allergens applies to a large proportion of adults with acute asthma" and that "this risk is prominent among the socioeconomic groups that have suffered the largest increase in both morbidity and mortality from asthma."

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